

U.S. Army Military History Institute  
ATTN: Vietnam Veteran Survey Coordinator (B)  
950 Soldiers Drive  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5021

**Vietnam War Era Service Survey Questionnaire**

This survey seeks to document, by means of this questionnaire, the recollections and opinions of Vietnam Era veterans of the United States Army.

Your responses are important to researchers and historians. For that reason, the questionnaire is rather lengthy. If the questionnaire does not give you enough space to answer or if you wish to address a question not specifically asked, please use a continuation sheet.

Please note that this questionnaire may be answered by anyone who served in the Army during the Vietnam Era (1945-1975) regardless of duty location.

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**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**

**AUTHORITY:** 10 U.S.C., Secretary of the Army; AR 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies and Procedures; and 16 U.S.C. 470, National Historic Preservation Act.

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:** Information provided will be used to document your opinions and recollections as a Vietnam Era veteran. Additionally, the information may be used for historical studies of the U.S. Army.

**ROUTINE USES:** None. The "Blanket Routine Uses" set forth at the beginning of the Army's Compilations of System of Records Notices apply to this system.

**DISCLOSURE:** Voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information may preclude your recollections and opinions being documented in the U.S. Army Military History Institute's Vietnam War Era Service Survey.

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**Donations**

USAMHI accepts donations of items of significant historical interest, which include personal papers, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, memoirs, photographs, correspondence with family and friends, camp and unit newspapers, regulations and manuals, unit histories, and certain other books, professional military journals, maps, soldier art and unit insignia.

☐ I do not have any historical material that I would like to donate

☐ I wish to donate unconditionally the following items to the U.S. Army Military History Institute:

- |  |                                      |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio tapes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Books       | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp/unit newspapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diaries   | <input type="checkbox"/> Documents   | <input type="checkbox"/> Films, video tapes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insignia, unit patches  | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters     | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memoirs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Periodicals | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artifacts, equipment, uniforms, etc. (Please call the Army Heritage |                                      |   |

Museum curator @ 717-245-4364 for disposition instructions or provide a phone number so that we may contact you. Phone number \_\_\_\_\_).

Have you already donated items to another library, college, museum, or archive? If so, please name the specific institution \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that in donating items to the U.S. Army, I must make an unconditional gift and relinquish all rights and claims to them. I agree that I will complete the necessary paperwork to document my gift and that the USAMHI may not return gifts once made, to myself or my heirs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Personal/Background Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Highest rank or grade held \_\_\_\_\_  
Present address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of service \_\_\_\_\_  
Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) \_\_\_\_\_

### **GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE**

#### Initial Entry

How did you enter military service?

1. Enlisted. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_ Place enlisted \_\_\_\_\_
2. Drafted. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Term \_\_\_\_\_ Place drafted \_\_\_\_\_
3. National Guard called to Federal service. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Term of svc \_\_\_\_\_
4. Army Reserve called to active duty. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Term of svc \_\_\_\_\_
5. Commissioned. Source of commission \_\_\_\_\_ Where and when \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the local enlistment or draft process with which you were involved \_\_\_\_\_

What was your civilian occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Did it have any bearing on your Army assignment? \_\_\_\_\_

How useful was your civilian occupation to you while in the Army? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your initial reaction upon entering military service? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you also serve in WWII? \_\_ Korea? \_\_ Lebanon? \_\_ Dominican Republic? \_\_  
Other "hot spots?" \_\_ If you also served in Vietnam, how did this prior service prepare you for duty there? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Training

Please list the training that you received, as applicable:

	Place	Dates
__ Basic	_____	_____
__ AIT	_____	_____
__ Airborne	_____	_____
__ Ranger	_____	_____
__ Special Forces	_____	_____
__ Aviation	_____	_____
__ Language	_____	_____
__ Other (specify)	_____	_____

Why did you seek or receive specialized training? \_\_\_\_\_

How well did your training prepare you for your subsequent assignments? \_\_\_\_\_

What additional specialized training did you receive upon assignment to a unit? In Vietnam? \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignments** (Please list "split" assignments during same tour if it applies)

Co/Btry/Trp served in _____	Dates assigned _____	Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Battalion/Squadron _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Regiment _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Division _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Duty Position _____			

***2<sup>nd</sup> assignment*** (if applicable)

Co/Btry/Trp served in _____	Dates assigned _____	Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Battalion/Squadron _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Regiment _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Division _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Duty Position _____			

***3<sup>rd</sup> assignment*** (if applicable)

Co/Btry/Trp served in _____	Dates assigned _____	Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Battalion/Squadron _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Regiment _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Of Division _____		Location _____	Commanded by _____
Duty Position _____			

***Please use a continuation sheet if you had more than 3 assignments***

If you served more than one tour, did you volunteer for any of them? \_\_\_\_\_  
How did your first tour affect your subsequent tour(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

If you were assigned to Vietnam, what was your reaction when you learned that you were going there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
If you served overseas, describe your experiences in preparing to deploy and what it was like getting there, either individually, by unit, or both \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
How were you received when you joined your unit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
If you were assigned to Vietnam, please describe your first few days "in-country" \_\_\_\_\_

### **General Military Life**

What were your opinions of the equipment, clothing, weapons, and rations that you were issued? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
What did you think about conditions in the Army, for example, pay, food, barracks or housing, medical coverage, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
What did you think about military courts and justice? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
If you had prior service, do you believe that the military justice system was fairer, the same, or less fair during the Vietnam War than at other times?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Did you receive and read Army news publications or a unit newspaper? If so, which ones? What did you think of them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
What information did the Army give you about what duty would be like? How was it presented (e.g., films, pamphlets, briefings, etc)? What was your reaction? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
What information did the Army provide you about what service in Vietnam would be like? How was it presented? What was your reaction? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
In your opinion, were awards and decorations distributed fairly? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the personnel rotation system affect morale and discipline in your unit?

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### **Leadership**

Who was the most important or influential leader, to you, personally, and why?

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What did you think of your unit leadership while in service or while in Vietnam? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did you think of Army leadership above your unit level? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did officers commissioned through various sources (service academies, ROTC, OCS, National Guard, direct commission) compare? \_\_\_\_\_

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How did those officers or NCOs with prior combat experience (WWII, Korea, previous Vietnam tour) compare with those who had not served in earlier conflicts? \_\_\_\_\_

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How often did you see your senior leaders - those at least two command levels above you? What were the visits like? \_\_\_\_\_

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What did you think of military discipline in your unit and throughout the Army at the time (lax, moderate, fair, strict, harsh)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any instances of particularly good or bad leadership which you experienced \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any instances of "fragging" or violence directed against leaders that you were aware of \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe any cases of desertion that you were aware of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the morale of your unit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think that the morale of your unit was that way? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Civil-Military Relations**

How well did you and your fellow soldiers get along with civilians in the US during training? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you were assigned stateside, what were relations with the civilian population like? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you were stationed overseas other than in Vietnam, what were relations with the civilian population like? What was their reaction to our involvement in Vietnam? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you served in Vietnam, what were relations with the Vietnamese population like? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were you involved with Civil Affairs operations or efforts to influence democratic reforms in Vietnam? If so, please comment on their effectiveness. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did you and your unit members do in their off time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was your reaction to the anti-war protests and activities happening in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did you come into contact with any war correspondents? If so, please describe your experience \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did you think of the media coverage of the war at the time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Operations and Combat Experiences

What operations or combat actions did you take part in?

Tour dates	Unit	Operations/Combat Action
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1.

2.

3.

4.

Please describe or comment on any combat operations in which you participated

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Please describe your "baptism of fire" and your reaction to that experience

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Please describe a "typical" day when your unit was committed to combat operations

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How would you rate your unit's combat performance and why?

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If you were ever wounded, please comment on the circumstances, quality of medical system, thoughts about returning to your unit/combat, etc.

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Did you ever operate with allies (South Vietnamese, Australian, Korean, Montagnard, etc.) in the field? If so, please comment on their effectiveness, as well as any special procedures used to facilitate those operations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you know of anyone who died from friendly fire or suffered from "shell shock?" If so, please describe the circumstances \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe a "typical" day when your unit was **not** committed to combat operations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was your opinion of the enemy, either North Vietnamese or Viet Cong? How did they compare to each other? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What effect, if any, did enemy propaganda have on your unit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever a prisoner of war (POW)? If so, please describe your experiences \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did you ever capture any enemy? Please describe the circumstances and how they were treated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were your operations limited by any restrictions, such as limited bombing and "no fire areas?" If so, what was your opinion of such limitations? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was your opinion about My Lai and other incidents of this type? What was the general opinion in your unit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please comment on any other aspect of operations in Vietnam that you feel necessary or insightful \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### **Personal/Unit Experiences**

Describe any experiences that stand out that you would describe as "good" or "bad" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did your unit experience any of the following? Please check all that apply:

- ☐ Drinking (on or off duty)
- ☐ Drug use
- ☐ Gambling
- ☐ Racial or ethnic problems/confrontations
- ☐ Theft
- ☐ Venereal disease
- ☐ Violence against superiors

Please describe the circumstances or particular incidents \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What slang words or phrases, both military and non-military, do you remember as being popular during your service? Songs or music? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you served more than one tour in Vietnam, please describe any differences in the types of missions, troop morale, military effectiveness, leadership, relationship with the Vietnamese people, etc. from one tour to another \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **End of Tour/Post-War**

What was it like returning home? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did you remain in the service? If so, where did you serve after that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If discharged, what did you do after your discharge? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What difficulties did you or anyone you know experience upon returning home?

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If you went to college or trade school under the GI Bill after your service, please name the school \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you join the National Guard or Reserve after active service? If so, why?

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Did you join any national or unit veterans' groups? If so, please describe your experiences \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your opinion as to the accuracy of any histories/articles/shows about campaigns or operations in which you participated? \_\_\_\_\_

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What were your expectations at the end of the war as to America's place and influence in the world? The prospects for world stability? \_\_\_\_\_

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What "lessons" did the United States learn from the Vietnam experience? \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have returned to Vietnam since 1975, please describe why you did so and your experiences there \_\_\_\_\_

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Are there any questions that we haven't asked or any other issues that you'd like to address? \_\_\_\_\_

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**If you have anything to donate, we would be grateful if you would use the postage-paid label to send these materials along with your completed questionnaire. If you would like more information about what we are seeking or have additional donations, please feel free to call or write.**

Our address is shown at the top of the questionnaire. You may reach us by phone at (717)-245-3971. Or you may visit our Website:  
<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usamhi/> . We welcome hearing from you.